



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## Proper Set-Out of Waste & Recycling Bins in Winter Safer for Everyone

**February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – Winter weather can be a challenge for collection of recyclables, green carts and garbage. Materials placed on top of snowbanks can present a safety hazard for collection contractors working in Petawawa, Pembroke and Laurentian Valley and improper set-out can result in damage to containers by snowplows.

Here are the set-out requirements for recycling and garbage containers as well as green carts.

- Items must be placed **5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 m) from curb or roadside (in driveway)**, not on sidewalk or snow bank). Material placed behind or on top of snowbanks may not be collected.
- Green cart must have 2 to 3 feet (0.6 to 0.9 m) clearance around it to allow for proper collection.
- Green cart wheels must be facing away from the road. Lids must be closed.

**“It’s not safe to have our snow plow operators maneuver around containers that are set-out too close to the road.”** States Mark. Behm, Public Works Manager at the Township of Laurentian Valley. **“Containers can be blown over or struck when the snow plow passes. The requirement to have material set-off the roadside 5 to 6 feet and in your driveway helps prevent containers from being hit.”**

And setting material on top of snowbanks presents some safety hazards for the collection contractor explains Mr. Behm. **“When material is placed on top of or in a snowbank it may not be collected. It’s a safety hazard for collection crews to retrieve items and lift them down off the snowbank. And items cannot be removed at all if they become frozen in the snow.”**

Here are some more winter collection tips:

- Clear out a place for your containers when you shovel snow.
- If the storm is occurring in the overnight hours, wait until the morning to place your material curbside.
- To help prevent material from freezing to your green cart:
  - Line the bottom of your green cart with crumpled up newspaper or pizza boxes.
  - Wrap food waste in newspaper or boxes (i.e. cereal box).
  - Strain excess liquid from soups and sauces and only place the solid pieces in the cart.
  - Layer wet organics (food waste, leaves) with dry organics (newspaper, pizza boxes).
- Nets are available for purchase at your Municipal office or Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. Nets cover the bins to prevent wind-blown litter.

For more information on your local recycling programs, please refer to your Municipality’s collection calendar or visit [www.ovwrc.com](http://www.ovwrc.com).

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Contact: Dave Unrau, Director of Public Works, Town of Petawawa, 613-687-5536  
Doug Sitland, Operations Manager, City of Pembroke, 613-735-6821  
Mark Behm, Public Works Manager, Township of Laurentian Valley, 613-735-6291

Picture included.